

## Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

---

### **Mission**

The Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center) is committed to supporting and protecting the health, safety, and dignity of all people with special needs and disabilities through advocacy of their civil rights, prevention of mistreatment, and investigation of all allegations of abuse and neglect so that appropriate actions are taken.

### **Organization and Staffing**

The Justice Center has an authorized staffing level of 470 FTEs with responsibility for two major program areas: the call center and investigations. The agency also has a legal team and staff that work in a variety of program areas including advocacy, training, and general administration. Additionally, the agency's responsibilities include maintaining a Staff Exclusion List of people who are prohibited from working with vulnerable populations.

### **Budget Highlights**

The FY 2024 Executive Budget recommends \$61.4 million in new appropriations. This represents an increase of approximately \$537 thousand from FY 2023 and is based on anticipated agency operating costs.

To protect the health and safety of vulnerable individuals, the Justice Center has primary responsibility for receiving, investigating and/or reviewing abuse and neglect allegations at certain facilities and programs that are operated, certified, or licensed by the following six agencies: Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), Department of Health (DOH), Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and the State Education Department (SED). The Justice Center is responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of the approximately one million adults and children receiving care from one of approximately 3,500 facilities or service providers overseen by the six State agencies.

For more information on this agency's budget recommendations located in the Executive Budget Briefing Book, click on the following link:

<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy24/ex/book/briefingbook.pdf>

### **Program Highlights**

The Justice Center program highlights include the following:

#### ***Call Center***

The agency's call center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to receive reports of allegations of abuse and neglect. Serious abuse and neglect reports and deaths are referred for investigation by the Justice Center, with lesser offenses delegated to the appropriate State Oversight Agency (SOA) listed above for investigation.

#### ***Investigations***

The Justice Center investigates allegations of abuse and neglect against vulnerable populations served by programs operated, licensed, or certified by the six SOAs. Once a report is made to the Justice Center, two types of cases can be created: administrative or criminal. An administrative investigation is conducted in all cases that have an allegation of abuse and neglect, while a criminal investigation is conducted in all cases that have an allegation of potential criminal offense. In addition, local District Attorneys are notified of every allegation of criminal abuse and neglect reported to the Justice Center.

Investigations are conducted by the Justice Center, the SOA, or the provider depending on the severity and setting of the allegation. Every investigation is reviewed by the Justice Center once complete, regardless of what entity conducts it. Every allegation reported to the Justice Center is deemed to be either substantiated or unsubstantiated at the conclusion of the review process.

In criminal cases, the Justice Center collaborates with State Police, local law enforcement agencies, and District Attorneys to pursue prosecution to the extent allowed by the law.

#### ***Other Initiatives***

The Justice Center's operations have continued to increase due to its participation in the Raise the Age (RTA) initiative and the placement of juveniles ages 16-17 in OCFS-operated programs. In addition, the FY 2022

**NYS DOB | FY2024 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations**

Enacted Budget included the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act (HALT). The Justice Center continues to monitor segregated confinement and Residential Rehabilitation Units for compliance with various provisions of the HALT legislation.

**ALL FUNDS  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

Category	Available FY 2023	Appropriations Recommended FY 2024	Change From FY 2023	Reappropriations Recommended FY 2024
State Operations	60,098,000	60,635,000	537,000	4,151,000
Aid To Localities	799,000	799,000	0	568,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,897,000</b>	<b>61,434,000</b>	<b>537,000</b>	<b>4,719,000</b>

**ALL FUND TYPES  
PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM  
FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS**

Program	FY 2023 Estimated FTEs 03/31/23	FY 2024 Estimated FTEs 03/31/24	FTE Change
Program Oversight			
General Fund	470	470	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>0</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

Fund Type	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
Enterprise Funds	500,000	500,000	0
General Fund	56,918,000	57,455,000	537,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2,064,000	2,064,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	616,000	616,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,098,000</b>	<b>60,635,000</b>	<b>537,000</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

Program	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
Program Oversight			
Enterprise Funds	500,000	500,000	0
General Fund	56,918,000	57,455,000	537,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2,064,000	2,064,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	616,000	616,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,098,000</b>	<b>60,635,000</b>	<b>537,000</b>

NYS DOB | FY 2024 Executive Budget | Agency Appropriations  
**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND**  
**SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES**  
**FY 2024 RECOMMENDED**  
**(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Program Oversight	45,129,000	319,000	44,812,000	319,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,129,000</b>	<b>319,000</b>	<b>44,812,000</b>	<b>319,000</b>

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Program Oversight	0	0	317,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>317,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND**  
**SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED**  
**APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES**  
**FY 2024 RECOMMENDED**  
**(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Program Oversight	12,326,000	218,000	522,000	9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,326,000</b>	<b>218,000</b>	<b>522,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Program Oversight	2,174,000	39,000	8,927,000	158,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,174,000</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>8,927,000</b>	<b>158,000</b>

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Program Oversight	703,000	12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>703,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND**  
**SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES**  
**FY 2024 RECOMMENDED**  
**(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Program Oversight	3,180,000	0	729,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,180,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>729,000</b>	<b>0</b>

Program	Nonpersonal Service	
	Amount	Change
Program Oversight	2,451,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,451,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**AID TO LOCALITIES  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

Fund Type	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
General Fund	799,000	799,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>799,000</b>	<b>799,000</b>	<b>0</b>

**AID TO LOCALITIES  
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM  
APPROPRIATIONS  
(dollars)**

Program	Available FY 2023	Recommended FY 2024	Change
Community Support			
General Fund	799,000	799,000	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>799,000</b>	<b>799,000</b>	<b>0</b>

Note: Most recent estimates as of 02/01/2023